

NIEHS Worker Education and Training Program

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Overview of National Response Issues Related to Training

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First Responder Perspective

- IAFF represents 274,000 career fire fighters and paramedics serving over 3,400 communities in the U.S. and Canada
- IAFF members are the primary first responders for disaster situations
- Experience and training with Incident Command System



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IAFF and September 11, 2001

Fire Department of the City of New York Casualties

- 343 members of Uniformed Firefighters Association, Local 94 and Uniformed Fire Officers Association, Local 854
- 80% of FDNY Special Operations Command
- Worst disaster in the history of the U.S. fire service

IAFF Response

- Local Assistance: Onsite Incident Command
- Counseling: 17 teams - averaging 65 members a day
- Financial assistance to families
- Training: NIEHS funded initiatives trained 2,604 personnel with a total of 85,192 student contact hours (FRO, Tech, WMD Ops)



2005: Katrina/Rita/Wilma Response

- Incident Command Staff
- Communications
- Evacuation
- Food
- Shelter
- Medical Care
- Medicine/Vaccines
- Fire Fighter Support Teams
- Transportation
- Housing Support
- Financial Assistance
- Building Materials
- Crews for House Repair



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Training Issues: Incident Command

- Prerequisite training (OSHA Disaster Site Worker)
- Practical training on essential knowledge and skills
 - Structure/communication
 - Adaptability/flexibility (basic needs first)
 - Complete the mission
- Onsite: Pre and post briefings
 - Prebriefing is the most important element in sending in any team



Training Issues: Planning and Relationships

- Know your community
 - What is in place
 - What/who are the local resources
 - If you travel to assist - these skills/experiences will apply
- Relationships and coordination
 - Maximize resource and information sharing (ex. IAFF Katrina Response: SCEIU, AFL-CIO, Red Cross)
 - Stagger responding teams to allow for information exchange
 - Avoid/eliminate duplication of services



Training Issues: Culture and Behavior



- Addressing “freelancing” (anything goes) mentality
 - Incident Command (1970 - present)
- Lack of Respiratory Protection at WTC Response
 - Fire fighters: SCBA experience only



Training Issues: What's Next

9-11-01

- localized metropolitan areas

2005 Hurricanes

- Gulf region

Next: National Disaster (i.e. Avian Flu)

- Planning and relationships
- Basic needs first



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